**Clearance to pending projects of tourism**

4155. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of proposals of the tourism sector received from the State Government of Assam are pending with Government;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons for the delay in taking any decision by Government; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) to (c) Promotion of tourism is primarily responsibility of the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India extends financial assistance for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation with the State concerned . Following project proposals have been taken up in consultation with the Governnment of Assam and sanctioned during 2002-2003 :—

1. Majuli Festival.
2. Construction of facilities for pilgrims at Kamakhya.
3. Projects under Tourist Circuit :
   (i) River Front Development alone Brahmaputra
   (ii) Development of Ethnic Village at Bhalukpung
   (iii) Camping site at Kohra
   (iv) Signages
4. Majuli Island Resort.
5. Rural Tourism at Phumen Ingti.
6. Rangoli Bihu Festival.

**Facilities to foreign tourists**

†4156. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of increase in the number of foreign tourists, the facilities being provided to them are negligible;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to encourage foreign tourists from whom huge amount of foreign exchange is earned, coming to India by increasing the facilities being provided to them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Tourism has formulated following short-term and long-term strategy to encourage foreign tourists :

- Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth;
- harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism for employment generation and economic development;
- focus on domestic tourism as a major driver of tourism growth;
- position India as a global brand;
- create and develop integrated tourism circuits based on India's unique civilization, heritage and culture;
- ensure that the tourist to India gets physically invigorated, mentally rejuvenated, culturally enriched-spiritually elevated and "feel India from within";

The following schemes have also been introduced in the Tenth Five Year Plan for improvement of tourist infrastructure in the country :—

(i) Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits.

(ii) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development.

(iii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects.

**Opening of Bhojshala and Kamal Maula Mosque**

4157. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought clear orders from Government about the timing for opening of the (1) Bhojshala and (2) Kamal Maula Mosque to the respective communities;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether Government have taken any step to lay down rules and guidelines for offering prayers at old and ancient places of worship in various monuments, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) and (b) After a brief exchange of correspondence about the manner in which the protected monument of Bhojshala should be opened, the State Government of Madhya Pradesh made certain suggestions/recommendations. These suggestions and decisions of the Central Government are contained in the enclosed Statement-I (*see* below). Subsequently, the State Government wanted formal orders issued by Director General, ASI. The requisite order was issued and a copy of the order is given in the enclosed Statement-II (*see* below).